

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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UNCLAS ATHENS 4987

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON CYPRUS
SITUATION AND GENEVA TALKS

1. AT AN EVENING PRESS CONFERENCE FOR BOTH GREEK AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS JULY 24 NEWLY APPOINTED GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER GEORGE MAVROS COMMENTED ON THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS AND THE FORTHCOMING GENEVA TALKS ON THE CYPRIOT CEASEFIRE. HIS COMMENTS WERE MADE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A QUESTION AND ANSWER FORMAT

2. IN AN OPENING STATEMENT, MAVROS REMARKED: "THE GENEVA TALKS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON THE CEASEFIRE IN CYPRUS WILL BEGIN TOMORROW AFTERNOON AND NOT ON FRIDAY, AS WAS ORIGINALLY AGREED YESTERDAY MORNING. I WILL CONTACT THE BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER TOMORROW AFTERNOON. A LITTLE WHILE AGO
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MR. CALLAGHAN PHONED ME FROM LONDON AND TOLD ME THAT HE

WISHES THE TALKS TO BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE ISSUE IS OF THE UTMOST URGENCY BECAUSE, DESPITE THE JULY 20 SECURITY COUNCIL CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION, THE TURKISH FORCES TONIGHT CONTINUE TO VIOLATE THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. THIS PROBLEM CREATES A DIFFICULT SITUATION BECAUSE IF TWO COUNTRIES, BOTH MEMBERS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND BOTH ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE COMMON MARKET, ARE NOT ABLE TO AGREE ON A CEASEFIRE, YOU CAN REALIZE THE EXTENT OF THE DIFFICULTIES AT HAND.

3. REGARDING THE GOG'S STANCE ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL CEASEFIRE RESOLUTION, MAVROS STATED: "THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS FULLY ACCEPTED THE RESOLUTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN ALL OF ITS POINTS AND IN GENEVA WILL SEEK TO IMPLEMENT IT TO THE LETTER."

4. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE GOG WAS TAKING ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO SECURE A CEASEFIRE AND A CESSATION OF VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT, MAVROS SAID: "WE ARE IN CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH ALLIED GOVERNMENTS INTERESTED IN THE OBSERVANCE OF THE AGREEMENT AND WE ARE EXERTING EVERY EFFORT TOWARD THE CESSATION OF THESE VIOLATIONS." IN REPLY TO A RELATED QUESTION, MAVROS STATED THAT TURKISH CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE "UNFORTUNATELY CONTINUING EVEN TODAY."

5. IN REPLY TO A QUERY ON THE POSITION OF THE GOG REGARDING THE RETURN OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS TO CYPRUS, MAVROS STATED: "PARAGRAPH FIVE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF JULY 20 CONCERNING CYPRUS PROVIDES FOR A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER. CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER PROVIDES FOR AN ELECTED PRESIDENT AND THIS IS MAKARIOS."

6. REPLYING TO A QUESTION CONCERNING THE RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN CYPRUS, MAVROS STATED THAT "THE QUESTION IS NOT TIMELY WHEN CLASHES ARE STILL TAKING PLACE IN NICOSIA, AND WHEN THE AIRPORT PASSES FROM GREEK HANDS INTO TURKISH HANDS AND THEN INTO THE HANDS OF THE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS TOO EARLY TO SPEAK OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. OF COURSE THE CYPRUS UNCLASSIFIED

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ISSUE WILL ULTIMATELY BE SOLVED THROUGH SUCH TALKS."

7. WHEN ASKED IF HE WAS AWARE OF A TURKISH PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A FEDERAL STATE IN CYPRUS, MAVROS ANSWERED THAT HE KNEW NOTHING OF SUCH A SUGGESTION. HE ADDED, "IN GENEVA THERE WILL BE NO DISCUSSION OF A CYPRUS SOLUTION. THE AIM IN GENEVA IS STRICTLY LIMITED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. IT IS NOT

POSSIBLE FOR A DISCUSSION TO BE HELD ON A SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS QUESTION IN THE ABSENCE OF CYPRUS WHICH IS AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC GUARANTEED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS."

8. FINALLY, WHEN ASKED ABOUT TURKISH PREMIER ECEVIT'S LETTER TO PM KARAMANLIS, MR. MAVROS UNDERLINED ITS CONTENTS AND ADDED WHAT WAS LEFT NOW WAS "TO CARRY OUT SUCH GOOD INTENTIONS."

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